Women self-employment programme

4569. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes of vocational training imparted by Government and different State Governments jointly or separately to women in order to provide them self-employment;

(b) the number of women employed under self-employment schemes in different States during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether Government propose to take up any comprehensive plan for women empowerment in the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Vocational Training is imparted by Central Government, State Government and private institutions to women through exclusive training centres for women Industrial Training Institutes and various other training schemes to increase the employability of the Labour force.

As per estimate obtained from the National Sample Survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the percentage of selfemployment among rural and urban female was of the order of 57.3 per cent and 45.3 per cent respectively in the year 1999-2000 (latest available).

(c) and (d) The Government is very much alive to the situation of employment in the country, including for women, thus, takes up appropriate steps to improve the situation.

Exploitation of Child Labour

4570. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the organized racket operating in Delhi which is involved in exploiting child labour especially in garment embroidery industry, where 43 children have been rescued by the police;

(b) if so, whether Government in co-ordination with the Delhi Police, is thinking of launching a full-fledged bperation to check this state of affairs where over 20,000 children are suspected to be working in such units;

(c) whether any NGO or such voluntary organization brought this matter to the notice of Government; and

(d) whether Government are devising ways and means to eradicate illegal child exploitation by small industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any organized racket operating in Delhi which is involved in exploiting child labour.

(b) Does not arise. However, the NCT Government of Delhi proposes to conduct a survey to identify child labour.

(c) NGO/Voluntary Organisation has brought the issue of employment of child labour to the notice of Government of Delhi.

(d) Action is taken against units found employing child labour in violation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

Facilities to tea plantation workers

†4571. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that labourers working in tea plantations in Assam are not getting fixed minimum wages;

(b) whether it is also a fact that said labourers are deprived of all facilities to be made available under the labour law;

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating efforts to provide all prescribed facilities to them; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.